Shitsuren Chocolatier

2

Eien wo Fukukaze Scans
cleaner: dojourei
typesetter: mayuka
translator: chinatsu

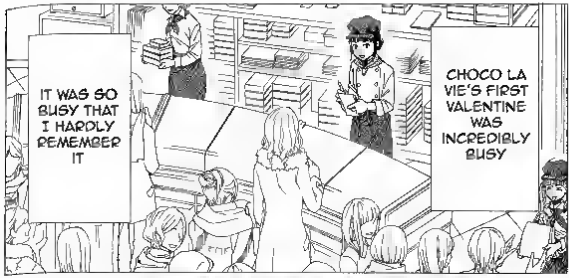
Chapter 5

IT'S EASY TO MAKE PROMISES TO OTHERS,
IF THAT WAS ALL IT TOOK TO MAKE A WOMAN TURN BACK, NOTHING COULD BE EASIER.
BUT REALITY ISN'T THAT EASY
BECOMING A BAD BOY IS DIFFICULT

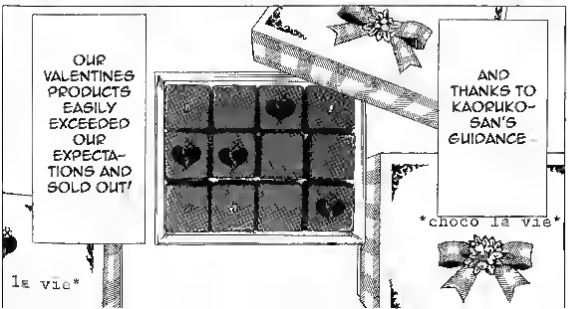
Chapter 5

MY DAILY ROUTINE IS WAKING UP EVERY MORNING AT 6:30 AND JOGGING AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD BEFORE GOING TO WORK.
BECAUSE KAORUKO-SAN TOLD ME THAT THE MAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE CHOCOLATE PRINCE MUST NEVER BE FAT.

"NEVER NEGLECT YOUR SKINCARE"
THERE ARE OTHER "KAORUKO ORDERS"
SO THE CHOCOLATE PRINCE MUST CONTINUE TO PROVE THEM WRONG!
THERE ARE CUSTOMERS WHO INSIST ON ASSOCIATING CHOCOLATE WITH PIMPLES,
choco la vie
Not that I get it any
EVENTUALLY, SHE'LL PROBABLY ORDER ME TO NEVER HAVE A NOSEBLEED


CHOCO LA VIE'S FIRST VALENTINE WAS INCREDIBLY BUSY
IT WAS SO BUSY THAT I HARDLY REMEMBER IT

TODAY IS THE DAY WHEN THE CHOCOLATE PRINCE GIVES CHOCOLATES TO ALL THE HARD-WORKING GIRLS OUT THERE!!
But not for free!
I UNDER-STAND!!
IT'S NOT A DAY FOR GIFTING CHOCOLATES TO MEN WHO CAN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCES IN TASTE OR THE BEAUTY OF THE MOULDS!!
VALENTINES IS A DAY FOR WOMEN TO BUY CHOCOLATES FOR THEMSELVES AS A REWARD!!


OUR VALENTINES PRODUCTS EASILY EXCEEDED OUR EXPECTA-TIONS AND SOLD OUT!
AND THANKS TO KAORUKO-SAN'S GUIDANCE
choco la vie
la vie*

AND NOW PLANNING HAD BEGUN ON HOW TO KEEP CUSTOMERS COMING IN THE SUMMER WHEN INTEREST IN CHOCOLATE FADES
THE DAYS OF STAYING OVER AND WORKING LIKE CRAZY HAD FINALLY PASSED

OH YEAH,
TWO NOTABLE THINGS HAPPENED THIS VALENTINES
ONE WAS FROM RIDOR'S MESSENGER
RIKUDO-SAN WANTED TO PERSONALLY DELIVER THIS TO YOU
BUT HE COULDN'T BECAUSE OF EVENTS SO I'M HERE INSTEAD
©RIDOR
work hard and stay healthy! Here's my love power!
So glad I was able to meet you.
A VALENTINES CHOCOLATE FROM RIKUDO-SAN!
WHAAAT?!
WHAT IS THIS? IT'S IN SUCH BAD TAS- NO, I MEAN, UNIQUE!
A BEATING HEART BEING STABBED BY THORNS?
THOSE ARE SCARY THORNS!!
IS HE CHALLENGING ME?

A CAKE THAT MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH CHOCOLATE FOR A LIFETIME, BUT SOON AFTER MAKES YOU CRAVE MORE
THAT'S WHAT IT WAS LIKE
A TASTE MEANT FOR ADULTS, BUT STILL SWEET...
A CHOCOLATE FILLED WITH ENOUGH AMAPETTO TO INTOXICATE YOU.
The rose thorns are pretzels.
I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS BEFORE IN THE STORE. DO YOU THINK IT'S NEW?
ISN'T THAT ROMANTIC CHOCOLATE?
I...
GUESS?
I think you should think more simply of what valentines is about?
TO SEND ME SOMETHING LIKE THIS DURING SUCH A CRUCIAL TIME FOR CHOCOLATE SHOPS. IT MUST BE TO REMIND ME HOW OF MY REPUTATION
NO MATTER HOW YOU SEE IT THIS IS A DECLARATION OF WAR TO ME, RIGHT?
IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR YOU...
TO RETURN A ROMANTIC CHOCOLATE...?
I'M GOING TO MAKE HIM A CHOCOLATE THAT EXPRESSES MY YOUTHFUL DETERMINATION!!
I'VE GOTTA SHOW HIM MY ALL!!

KYAH! OH NO! I'M NOT READY TO BE INTRODUCED TO HIS FAMILY SO SOON!
I COULD HAVE DELIVERED IT MYSELF, BUT I WANTED HIM TO THINK I WAS A BUSY MAN SO I HAD MATSURI DELIVER IT.
WOW~ SO HANDSOME
Thank you for always helping my brother!
BECAUSE OF THAT ON WHITE DAY I RETURNED THE BEST CHOCOLATE I COULD MANAGE TO RIKUDO-SAN.
SUBJECT re: hello
souta kun's feelings were delivered straight to my heart! ahhh what should I do~!!!! >u<
REPLY DELETE
HE SENT ME A MESSAGE LATE AT NIGHT
I thought I'd send something simple so I sent him a tarte a chocolat
with a banana that was flambed in liquer and carmelized nuts inside
COMPETITION FIRES ME UP
SO IF HE PROVOKES ME, I SHOULD ACCEPT IT
I'M REALLY FORTUNATE TO HAVE MET RIKUDOU-SAN.
DO YOU THINK HE MEANT 'I'LL ADMIT YOU TRIED" WHEN HE TALKED ABOUT MY FEELINGS?
WHAT ARE ALL THESE HEARTS
HE'S BASICALLY SAYING 'TRY HARDER' RIGHT?
WHAT? NO...

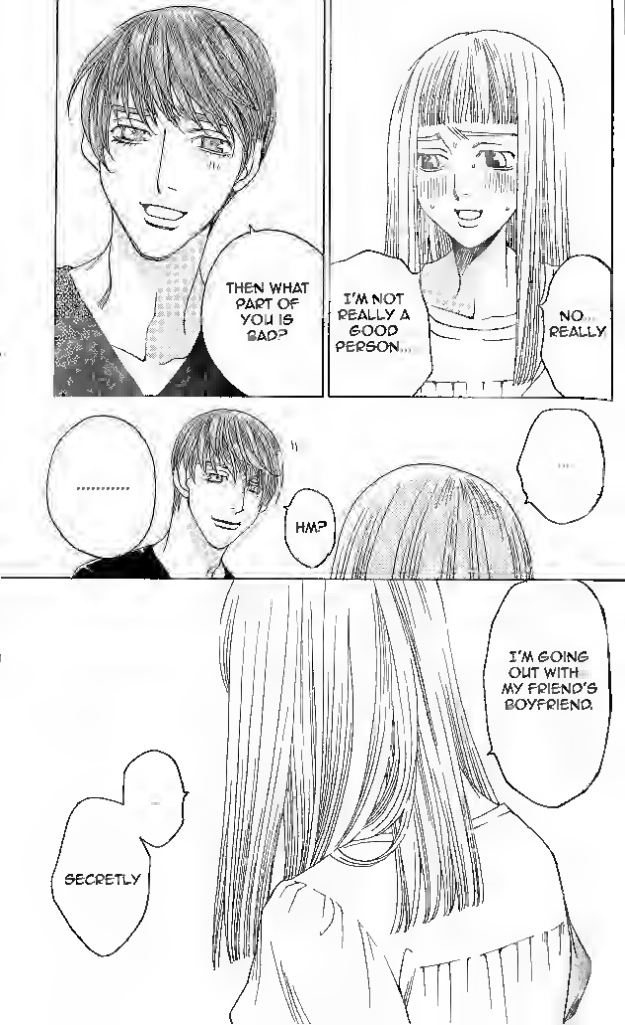
I THOUGHT GIVING A CHOCOLATIER CHOCOLATES WOULD BE STRANGE SO
AFTER THINKING IT OVER, I CAME UP WITH THIS
THE SECOND SURPRISE WAS A PRESENT FROM A FAIRY!
SOUTA-KUN... YOU WERE THE MOST TALENTED IN THE CRAFT CLUB~
THAT'S NOT TRUE
BUT SAEKO-SAN'S ALWAYS BEEN GOOD WITH HER HANDS~
CHEF! THERE'S SOMEONE ON THE PHONE
WOW!! IT'S REALLY WELL MADE!
THEY REALLY LOOK LIKE OUR STORE'S CHOCOLATES.
INSIDE WAS A HANDMADE MINIATURE SWEETS STRAP
I'M NOT GROSS FOR DOING THAT, RIGHT!?
SINCE SHE GAVE IT TO ME, IT'S OKAY TO PUT IT ON RIGHT?
I PUT THE STRAP ON MY CELL-PHONE,

SOMEHOW, I FELT IF I GAVE HER COOKIES AT THIS POINT IN TIME, SHE'D BE DISGUSTED WITH ME
I WASN'T SURE WHAT TO GIVE HER FOR WHITE DAY
but there are serious feelings behind those cookies! I can't take them
TRAUMA
BUT FIGURING OUT WHEN TO SHOW KINDNESS IS DIFFICULT
AIMING TO BE MORE OF AN ALOOF MAN IS FINE,
THAT'S HOW THE PRINCE OF CHOCOLATE WOULD'VE DONE IT, RIGHT?
I THINK
YAY! I'M SO HAPPY!
YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE TO TRY THESE!
I ENDED UP GIVING HER AN ASSORTMENT OF CHOCOLATES THAT I WAS PLANNING TO INTRODUCE IN THE SPRING
HIIIII
EEEK

RAWR!
KYAAAA!
MATSURI-CHAN!!
I'LL CAST A RECOVERY SPELL RIGHT NOW.
I HAVE THE "SHIELD OF MIRACLES" SO I'LL BE FINE!!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, JUST DEFEAT THE ENEMY, OLIVIER!!
I'M GOING TO CAST A SUPPORT SPELL!!
GYUN
MATSURI CASTED THE MEGA AMPLIFIER!
THE MAGIC'S ATTACK LEVEL WENT UP!

WOOOSH
TRINITY BLAZE!
SWIIISH

YAY! WE DEFEATED IT!!
WE FINALLY GOT "THE STAFF OF THE GREAT ANGEL!!"
YAY!
IT'S THANKS TO YOU! THERE'S NO WAY I COULD'VE GOTTEN IT ON MY OWN!
A FEMALE WARRIOR WHO WOULD USE HERSELF AS A SHIELD TO PROTECT ME!
YOU WERE SUPER COOL, MATSURI-CHAN! AN ANGEL! A GODDESS!!
MOE! MOE!
IF IT'S A VIDEO GAME, EVEN I CAN DO COOL THINGS
WHEN YOU'RE HELPING AROUND THE SHOP, YOU GIVE OFF A REALLY GOOD VIBE~ YOU'RE FLAWLESS!!
EH— NO
DON'T BE MODEST!
YOU ARE ALSO CUTE, KIND AND FUN IN REAL LIFE TOO!


THEN WHAT PART OF YOU IS BAD?
I'M NOT REALLY A GOOD PERSON...
NO... REALLY
.....
HM?
...
I'M GOING OUT WITH MY FRIEND'S BOYFRIEND
SECRETLY

EH? REALLY?
A MIXER?
"choco la vie"
EH?
I DON'T HAVE ANY SECRET TECHNIQUES...
ADVICE? HMMM...
UM... WEAR SHOES WITH LOWER HEELS?
YEAH... MEN ARE OFTEN SENSITIVE ABOUT THEIR HEIGHT SO,
ASIDE FROM THAT? HMMM... IF IT LOOKS COLD THEN TRY WEARING LIGHT CLOTHES? NO, I DON'T MEAN EXPOSING A LOT OF SKIN...

YOU CAN USE THAT TO SEE HIM AGAIN~
!!
SO ONCE IT'S NIGHT, YOU SHIVER AND TALK ABOUT HOW COLD IT IS HE MIGHT LEND YOU HIS JACKET~
WHAT!?
YOU SHOULD DRESS WARM IF IT'S GOING TO BE COLD. IS SHE AN IDIOT?!
I'D NEVER EVEN THOUGHT OF THAT BEFORE
IS THIS GIRL ACTUALLY A GENIUS?!
IS THIS THE GAP BETWEEN A WOMAN WHO WAS ABLE TO MARRY AT 26 AND A WOMAN WHO IS STILL SINGLE AT 32?!
AH
SORRY FOR USING MY PHONE IN THE STORE, SOUTA-KUN
HAVE FUN, OK? REMEMBER TO SMILE!
YEAH! DON'T STRESS YOURSELF OUT TOO MUCH!
LET ME KNOW HOW IT GOES~ BYE!
GOING OUT AND LEAVING AMITIE-CHAN (THE CAKE) ALONE LIKE THAT

CALLING THE CAKE "AMIE-CHAN" SHE'S SO CUTE! SUCH AN ANGEL! SUCH A DEVIL!!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. YOU'RE THE ONLY CUSTOMER NOW, ANYWAY.
ALSO, WE'RE DOING A TRIAL RUN ON THE LIMITED EDITION TRUFFLES FOR THE SUMMER. WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY SOME?
YES! THANK YOU!
IT'S MANGO! IT'S REALLY GOOD! I CAN DEFINITELY TASTE THAT IT'S REAL MANGO!
SO RICH~
NOM
BUT TRUFFLES ARE BOUGHT IN ONE BIG PACKAGE RIGHT?
NOM
YEAH, ABOUT 190 GRAMS EACH
IT'S KIND OF HEAVY... I THINK PEOPLE WILL GET TIRED OF IT QUICKLY?
IT'S RICH AND DELICIOUS BUT
HEAVY
TIRING
IS THIS ABOUT ME?!
AH, BUT IF IT'S SOMEONE WHO LOVES MANGOS IT'S PROBABLY FINE
I LIKE MANGOS TOO BUT THEY'RE NOT ON THE TOP OF MY LIST PERSONALLY
BUT MANGOS ARE PRETTY POPULAR
YEAH, JAPANESE PEOPLE LOVE MANGOS
BUT THAT'S TRUE
MAYBE I'LL TRY TO DO SOMETHING LIGHTER. IT IS SUMMER AFTER ALL

BY THICK DO YOU MEAN ME? ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ME!?
PICK ONE!
IT MIGHT BE A WASTE TO MAKE IT LIGHT
BUT I KINDA LIKE HOW THICK IT IS, TOO...
HMMM BUT
UM, SOUTA-KUN
ARE YOU ALWAYS BUSY WITH WORK?
THANKS FOR A WONDERFUL MEAL~♪
I'M GOING TO GO SEE A MOVIE TODAY
AH... SORRY I HAVE TO GET GOING
gets up
HAVE FUN THEN!
UH...
YES WELL
THANKS TO THE CUSTO-MERS.
UH...
YEAH.
SOMETIMES ON THE HOLIDAYS
DO YOU HAVE DAYS WHEN YOU CAN GO OUT?

SEE YOU!
THEN...
'KAY~
...
DO YOU THINK SHE JUST ASKED ME TO GO OUT WITH HER SOMETIME IN A SUBTLE WAY?!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?!
WHO KNOWS
ANYWAYS, I NEED TO FIGURE OUT WHAT I'M GOING TO DO ABOUT THE MANGO TRUFFLES...
I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT, THOUGH
THE PROBLEM IS SAEKO-SAN'S PERSONAL TASTE
I'VE FORBIDDEN MYSELF FROM GETTING MY HOPES UP
sigh
THERE'S NO WAY THAT COULD BE TRUE. SHE WAS PROBABLY JUST MAKING CONVERSATION...

YOU CAN'T JUST IGNORE
"IT'S HEAVY AND PEOPLE WILL GET TIRED OF IT"
THAT'S TRUE BUT
THE POINT OF LIMITED EDITION TRUFFLES IS TO HAVE PEOPLE BUY THEM AT THE START BECAUSE THEY'RE NEW AND THEN HAVE THEM BUY IT AGAIN AT THE END BECAUSE THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO EAT IT ANYMORE
GOOD NIGHT, OLIVIER!
GOOD NIGHT~
I'M GLAD I'M AN OTAKU
JAPAN REALLY IS HEAVEN! BEING ABLE TO WATCH ANIME EVERYDAY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT I'M GLAD I'M HERE!!
AN ANIME'S GONNA START SOON SO I'M GOING TO STAY UP A BIT MORE~
I GUESS!
YEAH I'M GOING TO BED AFTER SENDING A MESSAGE HOW ABOUT YOU, OLIVIER?
HUH? YOU'RE STILL AWAKE?

THE GUY I MENTIONED LAST TIME... MY FRIEND'S BOYFRIEND.
YOU KNOW
message sent
WE BROKE UP
WHENEVER I THOUGHT ABOUT MY FRIEND, I JUST...
PLUS,
A CHEATER IS THE WORST ANYWAY
SO...

JUST AS I THOUGHT, MATSURI-CHAN IS A GOOD GIRL
choco la vie
HEY,
FROM A WOMAN'S POINT OF VIEW, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF A YOUNGER GUY, LIKE ME?
WHAT?!

T-THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL!
JUST A BORING BRAT...
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT MAYBE I'LL NEVER BE ANYTHING BUT HER KOUHAI FROM HIGH SCHOOL
UM... I DUNNO.
CAN I EVEN BE CONSIDERED BOYFRIEND MATERIAL?
YOU'RE TALENTED, GOOD LOOKING AND PEOPLE CALL YOU THE CHOCOLATE PRINCE!
AND DESPITE ALL THAT, YOU'RE NOT CONCEITED AT ALL AND YOU HAVE A GOOD PERSONALITY!!
YOU'RE SMART AND PERCEPTIVE AND YOU WORK HARD SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?!
IF IT WERE ME, I WOULD DEFINITELY...

I FEEL LIKE THE MORE YOU SAY IT, THE MORE I BELIEVE IN MYSELF!
I'M SIMPLE~
THANKS! COMPLIMENT ME MORE!
...
blush
THAT...
UH~
SINCE HE'S ALWAYS SAYING HE WISHED YOU WERE HIS DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
BUT IF YOU SAY SUCH THINGS, MY DAD WILL BE HAPPY
!
WAIT, STOP SAYING STUFF LIKE THAT!!
AH, WELCOME!
REALLY?
BUT YOU TWO DO LOOK PRETTY GOOD TOGETHER!
BUT I TOLD HIM THERE'S NO WAY SOMEONE AS BEAUTIFUL AND COMPETENT LIKE YOU WOULD EVER WANT TO SOMEONE LIKE ME!
DAD'S LIKES TO DREAM BIG~
...

...
The looks good
which do you want?
WELCOME
AH— SAEKO-SAN, HELLO
HEY!
CAN I TALK TO YOU?
WHAT CAN I HELP YOU WITH?
I'M SORRY FOR ASKING WHEN YOU'RE BUSY!
THAT'S FINE BUT
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
UM.
SO
I'M GONNA ASK YOU SOMETHING A LITTLE WEIRD BUT
OKAY
HELLO-
CAN I TALK TO SOUTA-KUN FOR A SECOND?
OKAY?

SOUTA-KUN
ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH ANYONE?
NO
BUT
THIS
BECAUSE
REALLY? I'M GLAD~
SURE, BUT
FOR WHAT?
WHAT EVEN?
WHAT IS THIS?
...IT DOESN'T MATTER WHEN BUT
COULD YOU FREE UP SOME OF YOUR TIME...?

ONE OF MY FRIENDS
ASKED ME TO INTORDUCE YOU TO HER
SHE'S A REALLY CUTE GIRL, DON'T YOU WANT TO MEET HER?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

THANK YOU EVERY MUCH!
WELL...
ABOUT THAT...
I DON'T HAVE ANYONE I'M OFFICIALLY DATING BUT
THERE'S A PERSON WHO I REALLY LIKE RIGHT NOW
AND SINCE I HAVE SOMEONE LIKE THAT,
I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY INTEREST IN MEETING SOMEONE ELSE

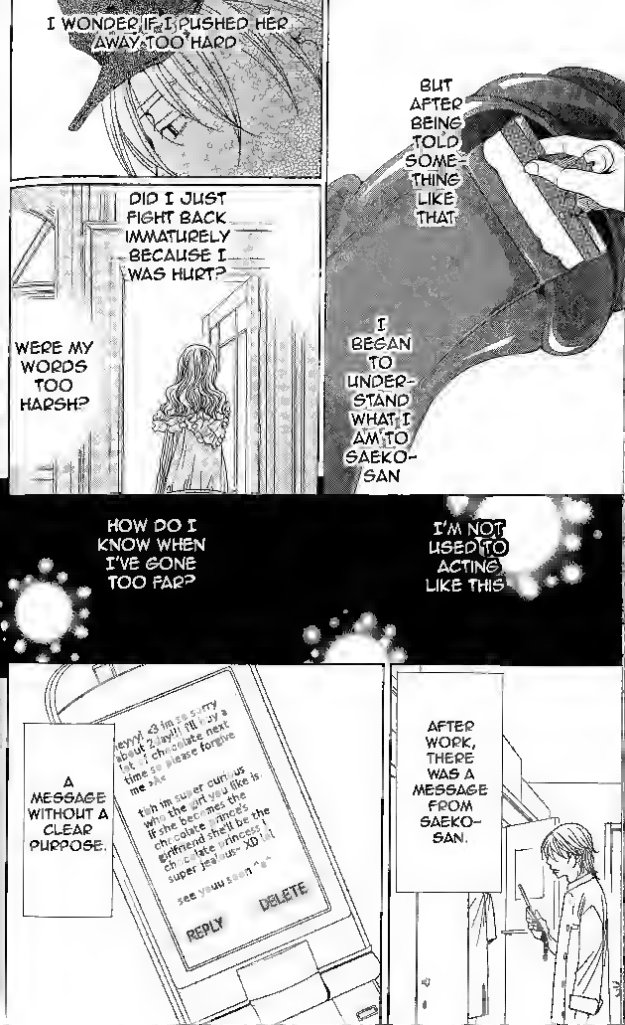
WHO'S THE PERSON YOU LIKE?
I'M CURIOUS-
WOW
OH! SO THAT'S HOW IT IS
WAIT, LET ME GUESS
IT'S SOMEONE YOU DON'T KNOW
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, RIGHT?

OH.
I SEE.
ALSO
SO BECAUSE OF THAT, I'M NOT REALLY INTERESTED IN MEETING ANYONE ELSE RIGHT NOW
IT'D BE RUDE TO MEET SAEKO-SAN'S FRIEND IF I HAD NO INTENTION TO BEGIN WITH.
COULD YOU AVOID SUCH PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS
WHEN THERE ARE OTHER CUSTOMERS AROUND?
THIS IS A STORE.
THIS IS A PROFESSIONAL
SERIOUS WORKPLACE AFTER ALL.

SORRY...
YOU'RE RIGHT
UM
THEN I'LL BE LEAVING.
SEE YOU AGAIN
...

I'M SO SAD~
WAN~
IF SHE HAD DOG EARS, SHE WOULD'VE DEFINITELY LOOKED LIKE THIS!
I GOT IT!
I GUESS
SAEKO-SAN LOOKED SAD.
NO ONE, OBVIOUSLY!
SO WHO DO YOU LIKE?
...
A BLUFF!
IT WAS JUST A TRICK!
IT WAS TO LOOK COOL!
TO SHOW OFF!!

COULD YOU NOT MAKE FUN OF US LIKE THAT?
BUT, SHE'S AN IMPORTANT EMPLOYEE HERE!
OF COURSE WE WOULD!
HEY!!
BUT EARLIER YOU AND KAORUKO-SAN LOOKED GOOD YOU KNOW~
AN OLD LADY LIKE ME DOESN'T GET BOTHERED BY THINGS LIKE THAT ANYMORE
YEAH
UH...
UM...
RIGHT?
I'VE BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO EXPECT THINGS TO GO MY WAY
SINCE I FEEL LIKE I'VE FINALLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT KIND OF WOMAN SAEKO-SAN IS...
SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME...
choco la vie


I WONDER IF I PUSHED HER AWAY TOO HARD
BUT AFTER BEING TOLD SOMETHING LIKE THAT
I BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND WHAT I AM TO SAEKO-SAN
DID I JUST FIGHT BACK IMMATURELY BECAUSE I WAS HURT?
WERE MY WORDS TOO HARSH?
HOW DO I KNOW WHEN I'VE GONE TOO FAR?
I'M NOT USED TO ACTING LIKE THIS
A MESSAGE WITHOUT A CLEAR PURPOSE.
REPLY
DELETE
AFTER WORK, THERE WAS A MESSAGE FROM SAEKO-SAN.

AND IF I RESPOND QUICKLY I FEEL LIKE I WON'T LOOK COOL ANYMORE.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO RESPOND TO IT ANYWAY
IT IRRITATED ME SO I LEFT IT ALONE.
I DON'T GET IT AT ALL.
NO, I SUPPOSE THIS IS HER TRYING TO APOLOGIZE.
I FEEL SO CONFLICTED
TELL HER ALL MY FEELINGS AND LET WHAT HAPPENS HAPPEN.
WHAT I REALLY WANT TO DO IS SEE HER RIGHT NOW!
THIS IS THE TIME WHEN
I HAVE TO BE PATIENT
AND LET TIME TELL.
BUT IF I DO THAT NOW, ALL THE WORK I'VE DONE UP UNTIL NOW WILL HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING.

"choco la vie"
THE APRICOT TRUFFLE WAS REALLY GOOD!
APPARENTLY IT'S ONLY AVAILABLE THIS MONTH!
NO WAY- I NEED TO BUY SOME TO TAKE HOME!
I WONDER WHAT NEXT MONTH'S FLAVOR WILL BE! I CAN'T WAIT~

YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING DOWN LATELY SOUTA!
IS IT BECAUSE SAEKO-SAN HASN'T COME BACK ONCE SINCE THAT INCIDENT?
...
GYAA!
DON'T ASK THAT SO DIRECTLY!!
KNOWING HER, SHE'LL PROBABLY JUST SHOW UP LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED
SHE'S NOT SENSITIVE ENOUGH TO BE AFFECTED BY SOMETHING LIKE THAT
NO, IT'S A MORE SIMPLE PROBLEM THAN...
WHETHER SHE COMES OR NOT...
AH...
WELL...
WHAT?
FOR WHAT, THOUGH?
SHE JUST WANTED TO SEE WHAT KIND OF REACTION YOU WOULD HAVE WHEN SHE SAID "I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO A GIRL."
PROBABLY
BUT I THINK
WHEN IT COMES TO THAT INCIDENT LAST TIME,
SHE WAS JUST BLUFFING!

DON'T YOU THINK SHE'D HAVE A REASON FOR USING THAT KIND OF TRICK?
FOR WHAT?
THERE'S NO REASON FOR HER TO USE IT ON ME.
THAT'S SOMETHING YOU DO TO SOMEONE YOU LOVE OR HAVE INTEREST IN.
SHE DOES, BUT
I'M NOT EVEN IN HER LINE OF SIGHT.
SHE'S JUST NEVER HAD INTEREST IN ME TO BEGIN WITH
BUT
UM.
SHE MUST REALLY THINK I'M AN IDIOT.
SHE PROBABLY JUST THOUGHT IT'D BE FUN IF TWO OF HER FRIENDS GOT TOGETHER AND SHE COULD HEAR STORIES ABOUT IT

IF..
IF YOU THINK THAT'S ALL THERE'S TO IT,
THEN WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?

WITH THAT UNDERSTANDING, WHAT IS YOUR GOAL?
SAEKO-SAN HAS NO INTEREST IN YOU, IF THAT'S KNOW, WHAT YOU THINK-
WHAT ARE YOU DOING CONTINUING TO CHASE AFTER A WOMAN YOU HAVE NO CHANCE WITH?!
AND YET ALL YOU TALK ABOUT IS SAEKO-SAN! YOU DON'T EVEN LOOK AT OTHER WOMEN!
TO BEGIN WITH, SHE'S MARRIED SO IT'S ALREADY OVER
MY HEART IS ALWAYS OPEN AND IF THERE EVER WAS A GIRL THAT ATTRACTED MY ATTENTION, I'D BE WILLING TO FALL IN LOVE WITH HER AND DATE HER!
I WANT TO DO THAT!!
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M ACTIVELY AVOIDING OTHER WOMEN
AND I'M NOT FORCING MYSELF TO STAY IN LOVE WITH HER!

THAT'S IT!
BUT RIGHT NOW, I HAVEN'T MET A SINGLE GIRL LIKE THAT!!
POW!
DON'T DAMAGE THE COOKING UTENSILS!!
LOOK AT HOW SAD KAROUKO-CHAN LOOKS! IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE TRASH!!
HOW CAN YOU CALL YOURSELF A CHEF!!!
THROWS
WHY ARE WE EVEN TALKING ABOUT THIS?
DAD, PLEASE CALM DOWN, DAD!
I'LL TAKE BACK THE STORE, YOU IDIOT!!

I'M BACK-
YEAH, ONLY FOR A LITTLE BIT.
ARE YOU GOING OUT THIS LATE?
MATSURI-CHAN-
?

ARE YOU GONNA SEE THE GUY YOU MENTIONED BEFORE?
...
HE SAID "MY GIRLFRIEND'S GONE SO YOU CAN COME NOW"
AREN'T YOU SURPRISED?
HE'S THE WORST
STUFF LIKE "I WANT TO SEE YOU"
"I'M ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT YOU"
HE SAYS THEM TO ME OVER AND OVER ISN'T IT AWFUL?

BUT I WANT TO SEE HIM TOO!
I KEEP THINKING ABOUT HIM!
I'M AWFUL!
I'M THE WORST!
I WILL DEFINITELY STOP SOMEDAY!
BUT I JUST CAN'T DO THAT RIGHT NOW...!
I'M NOT LYING!

sniff
C-COULD YOU TELL MY MOM THAT I'M SLEEPING OVER AT AYU-CHAN'S PLACE?
BYE
ARE YOU GOING BY TRAIN? I'LL WALK YOU THERE
IT'S FINE
BUT IT'S LATE AND I'D BE WORRIED
I'M FINE SO LEAVE ME ALONE...!
WHEN YOU'RE NICE TO ME I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE JUST REPROACHING ME...!
...
SORRY
I'M SO SORRY

A REAL PRINCE.
PERSON.
YOU'RE A REALLY NICE
YOU'RE REALLY NICE, OLIVIER.
I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU MATSURI-CHAN.

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN PAIN
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE GOING TO SEE SOMEONE YOU LOVE SO MUCH
MATSURI-CHAN
I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU.

I'M JUST FIGHTING WINDMILLS.
I WAS AN IDIOT FOR THINKING I COULD BLUFF.
IN REALITY, IT'S ALREADY OVER.
I'M JUST DRAGGING MY UNREQUITED LOVE FROM HIGH SCHOOL BY MYSELF.
SAEKO-SAN IS A MARRIED PERSON AND
AND MY STORE'S WILL CONTINUE TO RUN, WHETHER SHE COMES OR NOT.
IT'S NOT LIKE SHE WOULD DIE WITHOUT MY CHOCOLATE
choco la vie
BUT SHE WAS ONLY LETTING ME
I TRIED TO CONNECT IT.
AND SHE MIGHT NEVER COME TO THE STORE EVER AGAIN

FROM THE BEGINNING, I WAS THE ONLY ONE IN THE RING.
IN REALITY, IT WAS ALL OVER FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.
EVEN IF THE CUSTOMERS COME
EVEN IF THE STORE IS THERE
EVEN IF KAORUKO-SAN IS HERE
EVEN IF OLIVIER IS HERE
I AM ALONE.

I
AM
ALONE.

I WANT TO FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE...
ISN'T THERE ANYONE?
SOMEONE...
AS LONG AS IT'S NOT HER!

I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING GOOD...
!
HUH?
choco la vie

TRY THIS.
AND SO I STAYED UP ALL NIGHT WORKING!
I THOUGHT OF SOMETHING YESTERDAY EVENING
MORNING!
GOOD MORNING YOU'RE STARTING EARLY TODAY
MM.
OH
THIS ONE'S ORANGE!
YEP!
WAIT, THIS ONE'S LEMON!
NOM
NO
DID YOU CHANGE SOMETHING?
YEP!
MANGO.
NOM~
TRY EATING SOME MORE.
DON'T YOU THINK THEY'D BE TEMPTED TO KEEP EATING UNTIL THE BOX IS EMPTY?
PEOPLE WILL HAVE FUN WONDERING WHICH FLAVOR THEY'LL GET NEXT.
THE MANGO TRUFFLE HAS A RICH FLAVOR, THE LEMON TRUFFLE IS LIGHT AND REFRESHING AND...
THE ORANGE TRUFFLE CONNECTS THE TWO.
I THOUGHT OF MIXING THREE FLAVORS IN THIS SUMMER'S TRUFFLES

IT'S A GOOD IDEA
BUT WHY DID YOU DECIDE ON CITRUS?
THE SAD FEELING OF AN UNREQUITED LOVE IS LIKE A LEMON, DON'T YOU THINK?
EMOTIONS,
THEY ALL CREATE SOMETHING INSIDE PEOPLE,
BUT I THINK SADNESS IS THE MOST USEFUL
SADNESS GIVES THE BIGGEST SHOCK TO THE CREATIVE SOUL.
A SOUL THAT IS HURT AND SAD
WILL DESPERATELY TRY TO BRING SOME HAPPINESS TO ITSELF

I SEE
..
BUT 3 FLAVORS MEANS A LOT OF EXTRA WORK
FOR CHOCOLATE STORES, SUMMER IS THE TIME WHEN CUSTOMERS NEED TO BE ENTICED!
THE ONE ENTICING
NEEDS TO BRING EXTRA CANDY!
YOU KNOW,
I WAS THINKING OF AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION
OF HOW I WANT TO BE WITH SAEKO-SAN...
AFTER SAEKO-SAN HAS HAD ALL KINDS OF EXPERIENCES
IF SHE CAME TO ME AND THOUGHT "I GUESS AFTER ALL IS SAID AND DONE HE'S THE BEST I CAN DO",
I'D BE REALLY HAPPY EVEN IF I'M REALLY OLD BY THEN
LIKE 'JUST LET ME TAKE CARE OF YOU" OR 'IT'S OKAY, JUST BE THERE"...
OH
— IS WHAT I THOUGHT!
MY TRUE THOUGHTS MIGHT JUST BE THAT I WANT HER TO LET ME DO HER AT LEAST ONCE!! IT MIGHT JUST BE THAT!!
UGH IT'S NO GOOD A COOL MAN WOULD NEVER SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF A WOMAN.
THE PATH TO THE CHOCOLATE PRINCE IS STILL A LONG ONE!
I DON'T COUNT AS A WOMAN ANYWAY
IT'S FINE

OLIVIER, TRY SOME~
GOOD MORNING, I'M GONNA OLIVIER' CHANGE
MORN-ING!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! I'VE THOUGHT THIS BEFORE BUT WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SAYING SUCH NEGATIVE THINGS?!
NOT BAD!
YES!
LEMON.
THEY'RE INTENTIONALLY MADE TO LOOK THE SAME BUT THE FLAVORS
I'LL TRY SOME OF THE OTHERS THEN..

SOUTA
I
FELL IN LOVE
WHO?
WITH
AND...

IS IT PAINFUL ENOUGH LOVE TO MAKE YOU CRY LIKE THAT?
UNREQUITED LOVE IS ROUGH, HUH?
BUT BEING ABLE TO LOVE SOMEONE STILL MAKES ME HAPPY
I THINK YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND.

CHAPTER 5: END
…Bien sûr.
(OF COURSE)
choco la vie